

# How do you use the Forest?

## Access and Transportation Infrastructure



- **Trends:** Routine maintenance has been reduced, maintenance cycles are extended, and selective repairs are made.
- **Rationale:** There is more interest to provide adequate accommodations for many forms of motorized and non-motorized access
- **Management Strategy:** Expand partnerships for road and trail maintenance, establish priorities for maintenance to minimize or mitigate resource damage and promote public safety.

## Climate



- **Trends:** *Under Development*
- **Rationale:** Management guidance, emphasis, and monitoring will need to assess climate impacts, mitigations, and adaptation by resource area and collectively.
- **Management Strategy:** Strategies will need to manage the Forest for adaption to new conditions by promoting resistance and resilience to change, and provide response options.

## Cultural / Historic / Tribal Resources



- **Trends:** New sites on the Forest, there will be the need to protect them for the future.
- **Rationale:** Cultural and historic resources make an important contribution to the social, economic, and ecological sustainability.
- **Management Strategy:** Sustain cultural resources through balancing the preservation of non-renewable cultural resources of exceptional value and growing public interest.

## Forest Ecosystem Management



- **Trends:** During the late 1990s, the Plateau suffered a widespread spruce beetle epidemic, which killed much of the spruce.
- **Rationale:** Establish direction for achieving sustainability, resiliency, and for minimizing risks to vegetation and its composition and structure
- **Management Strategy:** Manage the Forest's vegetation to promote, restore, and maintain plants and animals.

## Invasive Species



- **Trends:** Native grasses have been replaced with invasive species which is not as effective.
- **Rationale:** Invasive species will increasingly threaten the composition and function of our terrestrial and aquatic ecological systems
- **Management Strategy:** Address minimum acceptable levels for non-native species



## Draft Strategic Framework

The Strategic Framework for the Manti-La Sal National Forest is to continue managing ecosystems that occur within the Forest for the sustainability of healthy watersheds that promote the integrity of forest ecosystems while supporting recreational and cultural use and local economies. Our Strategic Framework recognizes that social and economic components are not separate from ecological systems. The stewardship played by humans to sustain these relationships depends on an appreciation of both the human ecological complexities that are uniquely tied to the management of the Forest and how these may change over time. Historical changes in social, economic and ecological conditions, as well as current and projected future demands relating to specific resources present unique challenges or importance in achieving our Strategic Framework.

Based on available information, the Forest identified twelve resource focus areas. These resource focus areas were identified in the Preliminary Need to Change the Forest Plan as “Resource Management Themes” and “Social and Environmental Conditions”. For each resource focus area, the Forest identified a management strategy, rationale, and forest trends.

## Draft Management Philosophy

The Manti-La Sal’s management philosophy is to maintain and restore the structure, function, composition, connectivity and productivity of natural ecosystems while providing for the social and economic needs of local communities and a larger public. We will best demonstrate the sustainable multiple-use management concept by managing for:

- The sustainability of healthy watersheds that occur within the National Forest to promote the integrity of the Forest’s ecosystems and associated plants and wildlife.
- The social and economic components that are not separate from ecological systems when making land management decisions.
- Being good neighbors who look for opportunities to work with various land owners and agencies adjacent to or near our boundaries.
- The needs of our customers in fair, friendly, and open ways and to form partnerships to achieve shared goals.
- The continuation of high professional and ethical standards using the best available scientific knowledge in making decisions while following laws, regulations, executive direction, and congressional intent.

## Minerals and Energy



- **Trends:** There is a high potential for the development of new oil and gas resources within and near the Forest.
- **Rationale:** Potential future proposals for transmission corridors and renewable energy generation.
- **Management Strategy:** Build and maintain professional relationships when administering mineral and energy resource actions involving other federal and state agencies.

## Rangeland Management



- **Trends:** Livestock grazing was once not managed, since then vegetation species has rebounded.
- **Rationale:** Restoration and conservation of native grass and forb species as invasive species are not as effective in the prevention of erosion or as productive for forage.
- **Management Strategy:** Manage rangeland activities to restore, sustain, and enhance the health of plant communities.

# Future Forest Management Strategies

## Recreation Management



- **Trends:** The population has grown to one million people living within 50 miles of the forest - a 30% increase.
- **Rationale:** The Forest needs to be responsive and will continue to support local economies and culture.
- **Management Strategy:** The Forest will maintain the healthy ecosystems and settings that provide the basis for recreation opportunity and experience.

## Terrestrial and Aquatic Species Habitats



- **Trends:** Components be consistent with current science; for example, hiding cover and habitat security.
- **Rationale:** The key to maintaining quality wildlife habitat is large blocks of diverse, healthy vegetation and plant communities.
- **Management Strategy:** Manage toward terrestrial, riparian and aquatic habitat and population connectivity for species movement across the landscape.

## Wildlife



- **Trends:** *Under Development*
- **Rationale:** Habitat conservation is consistently identified by the public as an extremely high management priority for forest lands.
- **Management Strategy:** Manage Forest land to provide for the conservation and recovery of federally recognized species, as well as to maintain viable populations of species of conservation concern.

## Wildfire



- **Trends:** Increasing temperatures, longer fire seasons, and the growth of communities into wildlands have made managing fire riskier and more complex.
- **Rationale:** Develop fire adapted communities to provide for safe and effective wildfire response for firefighters and public, especially in WUI.
- **Management Strategy:** Manage fire and fuels, where appropriate, to restore natural systems to their desired future condition.

## Water and Watershed Health



- **Trends:** Changes in watershed connectivity and stream flow have occurred from past land use activities.
- **Rationale:** Provide clean water and as much as possible is a valuable Forest resource.
- **Management Strategy:** Manage watersheds for sustainable health and integrity using a holistic approach that incorporates water, soil and aquatic and riparian ecosystem health, structure, composition.